

Session 7:

Towards global harmonisation and evaluation of the veterinary curriculum, and an internationally recognised diploma

The disparity of veterinary education in the world: the impact of cultural differences; a blueprint for future collaboration

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With several hundred veterinary education institutes in the world it is to be expected that a marked disparity of approaches would exist. Much of this disparity is dictated by widely varying geographical needs and the preparation of veterinarians to respond to those needs. Some are for the control of highly contagious tropical diseases, some for the care of animals used for draught purposes, especially in developing countries, some are due to religious beliefs or political imperatives, some for the provision of public health services to safeguard human health or safeguard export markets and some, in fact many, to provide health and welfare services nationally for production animals, those for sport and for animals serving companionship. But disparity may even occur between educational establishments within a country in that funding may be dictated locally, e.g, by State Legislatures for the purposes of training veterinarians for local needs.

The disparate nature of veterinary education has led, owing to lack of leadership, to a failure to address the need for a coherent approach to the problems associated with population growth, global warming, food shortages and environmental degradation. Increasingly however the disparities are serving as the catalysts for an approach to address the coming global emergencies and this paper identifies the need for a global perspective for veterinary education.

